

## Misawa Snow Removal Team Wins Balchen/Post Award

The 35th Civil Engineer Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan, received the Col Bernt Balchen/Wilfred M. Post Award during the International Aviation Snow Symposium May 3 in Buffalo, N.Y.

The annual award recognizes outstanding achievement in base and airfield snow and ice control. The 5th CES, Minot Air Force Base, N.D., was runner-up.

The Balchen/Post Award, which is sponsored by the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives, is presented to the outstanding snow removal team in one military airport and four commercial airport categories.

Although snowfall is just one of many criteria for the award, Misawa received a staggering 214 inches in 1999, including 100 inches that fell during January and February with an average wind speed of 42 knots. The 35th CES' outstanding performance ensured base roads remained open and the airfield never closed — accommodating over 17,000 sorties.

Customer service was significantly enhanced through development of a snow control web page. This provided agencies with quick access to snow plans and pertinent data. The 35th CES

also provided winter briefings to the base community, informing them of winter hazards, increasing safety awareness, and providing an overview of snow operations. Their efforts ensured no personal injuries were recorded.

"I'm really proud of our snow control folks — dedicated to the mission, community support and quality of life while maintaining a high safety stan-

dard," said Maj Dimasalang F. Junio, 35th CES Operations Flight commander.

The award, previously known as the Balchen Award, was named for Arctic aviation pioneer Col Bernt Balchen and for Wilfred "Wiley" Post, a founder of the International Aviation Snow Symposium. (*SMSgt Clyde Young, HQ AFCESA*)



**(Left to right)** SSgt Roger Pelletier, 35th CES NCOIC horizontal repair; Shinji Ebina, 35th CES engineering technician/quality control; SSgt Joseph Jenkins, 35th CES NCOIC equipment operations; Jane Post, wife of Wilfred Post; Shigesada Takahashi, 35th CES heavy equipment foreman; Alex Kashanie, AAE Northeast Chapter President; and SMSgt Vincent Davis, 35th CES chief, heavy repair.